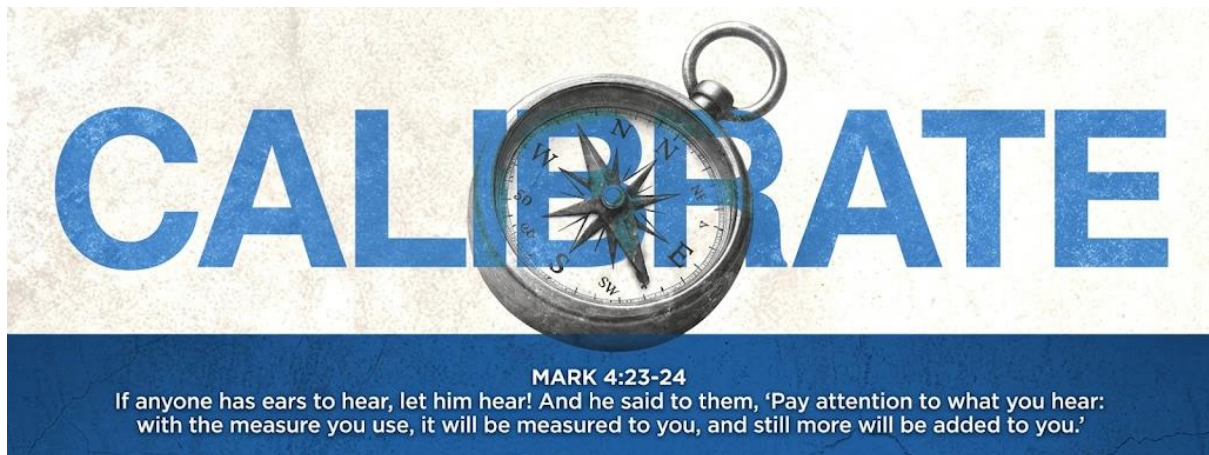




Connect Group Calibrate Part 5

Mark 4:23-24

"If anyone has ears to hear, let them hear!" And he said to them, "Pay attention to what you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you."

Connect Group:

- Choose ONE EVENING a week to host your connect group.
- Ask each member of your connect group to bring their Bible.
- If you wish, you can take communion together again.

WELCOME

Welcome: Welcome each group member.

Icebreaker: Choose one of the following topics and discuss it:

- a) Have you ever sat outside by a warm fire in the cold and rain? Share how that welcoming heat felt.
- b) Sometimes you make an effort to do something good (like gathering wood for the fire, just like Paul did) and then something bad happens as a result. Have you ever encountered an

unexpected "snake" or setback in your life when your intentions were purely good?

WORD

Prayer: Open with prayer. (Give everyone an opportunity)

Read: CORE TEXTS FOR TODAY:

Colossians 3:1-2:

Since then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

Leviticus 6:12-13:

The fire on the altar must be kept burning; it must not go out. Every morning the priest is to add firewood and arrange the burnt offering on the fire and burn the fat of the fellowship offerings on it. The fire must be kept burning on the altar continuously; it must not go out.

Acts 28:3, 5:

Paul gathered a pile of brushwood and, as he put it on the fire, a viper, driven out by the heat, fastened itself on his hand... But Paul shook the snake off into the fire and suffered no ill effects.

2 Timothy 1:6:

For this reason, I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

Discuss the following in your Connect Group:

CALIBRATION is the fine-tuning of an instrument to a given standard so it can provide reliable, accurate measurements.

This week we look at the fire in our spiritual lives. Our God is a consuming fire. Just as in Leviticus, it is our responsibility to ensure that the spiritual fire

on the altar of our hearts is kept burning and does not go out. We must fan the gifts God has given us into flame.

But we must be vigilant, because as we become zealous and "gather wood," the heat can drive things out. In Acts, we see how a snake came out of the heat and bit Paul on his hand while he was throwing wood onto the fire.

This snake can be compared to: Gossip, Immorality, Taking Offense, Negativity, and Greed.

When these things enter our lives, we must do exactly what Paul did: shake them off into the fire and do not let them affect you.

Read Today's texts again and discuss them:

a) Leviticus 6 encourages us to keep the fire on the altar burning. What does it practically mean in today's life to pack "wood on the fire" every day so that your spirit stays warm? What role do church gatherings play in keeping our fire warm (Heb 10:25)?

b) Think about the mentioned elements: Gossip, Immorality, Offense, Negativity, and Greed. How do you handle it when one of these things unexpectedly tries to "bite" your peace, and how can the decision to set our minds on things above (Col 3:1) help us to immediately "shake off" these things?

WORSHIP & WORKS

Worship - <https://woordenlewe.com/connect-worship/> Make time to worship God today. Use the playlist on our Woord en Lewe website under Connect or use the worship from Sunday's service.

WORKS: APPLICATION and QUESTIONS

Now take Communion together as a Connect Group:

Love for God, Love for People. As a Connect Group, spend about 5 minutes in silence before you adjourn, and let each member answer the questions

below for themselves. Create a peaceful atmosphere and allow the Lord to speak to each one individually.

- **Examine your fire:** Is your spiritual life currently only lukewarm, or are you fanning the spiritual gift within you into a burning flame? What must you do to ensure the fire in your heart does not die out?
- **Test the bite marks:** Have any aspects of Gossip, Immorality, Offense, Negativity, and Greed hindered you recently? Have you allowed people's expectations of you "dropping dead" (like with Paul) to creep into your mind, or have you successfully shaken them off into the fire?
- **Calibrate your mindset:** Make the firm decision today to fully focus your thoughts on the things that are above. Confess before the Lord that, by His grace, you will persevere to the end so that the authenticity of your faith can emerge stronger than tested gold on the other side.



LOVE GOD LOVE PEOPLE